
Office of Environmental Justice



Environmental Justice Fact Sheet

Community Intern Program

Environmental Justice Community Intern Program

Since 1992, the Office of Environmental Justice has managed a training program under a cooperative agreement between EPA and the Environmental Careers Organizations, Inc. (ECO), to provide training opportunities for hundreds of college students. More than 1,900 students from all parts of the U.S., from varied ethnic backgrounds, and all academic levels (undergraduate, graduate and doctoral) have participated in the program and trained on challenging science, engineering, management, education and policy-related projects. Several of these students come from historically black colleges, Hispanic serving institutions, Asian serving institutions, and tribal colleges. The original purpose of the program was to not only expose undergraduate and graduate students to the different kinds of EPA programs with the intention of attracting them into environmental careers, but to also provide EPA with a diverse group of eager young people to enhance the workforce. Soon it became clear that exposure to other environmental programs, outside of the EPA, could be beneficial to the students, since many may not pursue environmental careers, but all would live in a community. A community internship would be a good way for them to find out about local issues and might spark an interest to get involved.

In 2000, the [Community Intern Program](#) was established and successfully placed 16 students in local community organizations where they might experience environmental protection at the grassroots level and learn about methods used by these local organizations to address local environmental issues. The program has been so successful that in subsequent years the number of interns placed has been increased to 30 each year and, resources permitting, the program will continue at this level. The Community Intern Program is a terrific opportunity for EPA to strengthen existing partnerships and to create new ones with the community organizations where we work.

You can see which organizations and projects were successful by visiting <http://www.eco.org>.

Preference for a community intern student will be given to the community organizations that did not receive an intern in the past. Students must be citizens of the United States, its territories, or possessions, or lawfully admitted to the United States with permanent residence. To participate in this opportunity to receive an eager young student to work this summer, You must identify a project and submit a completed project description form by January 28 of the year in which you wish to participate. Your project must be to develop research (or of a research nature) i.e., survey, research, collecting and analyzing data which will be used to expand scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied.

Students must register with ECO to participate. If you know of students in your community that would be interested in this opportunity and who are currently enrolled in a college or university, or who will be enrolled by the summer of the year in which you apply, you may have them send a resume to Jing Yang to the address provided above.

A panel will review all project descriptions and select the 30 community organizations to receive an intern. Each selected organization will be notified by letter. An announcement of the organizations selected will also be posted at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice> by April each year. For more information, you may contact Jing Yang, Intern Coordinator for ECO, (617-426-4783, Ext. 129) E-Mail: jyang@eco.org or Renee Goins, EPA/ECO Intern Program Coordinator, (202-564-2598) E-Mail: goins.renee@epa.gov or fax to: 202-501-1106.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM for COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS

To request an Intern, you must complete this form, attach your project, and either fax a copy to the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) on 617-426-8159, or send it by email to jyang@eco.org.

Community Organization Name: _____

Location: _____

Description of Type of Work: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone/Fax/Email: _____

Project Advisor: _____

(This person will verify time and attendance)

Phone/Fax/Email _____

Number of people in your Organization: _____

Description of Project (no more than 1-2 paragraphs)

Project should focus on the following: 1. Specific Tasks 2. Expected Results 3. Benefit to the Intern. **(Please attach your project description on your organization's letterhead)**

If you know of a student interested in participating in the Summer Community Organization Intern Program, please forward a resume to Jing Yang at ECO, Attn: Community Intern Program, 179 South Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111 or email resume to jyang@eco.org.